

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

**29**

**April 10, 2001**

**FROM: CATHY CIMBALO, Director  
Department of Children's Services**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAVEL**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize out-of-country travel for Diane Devore, Supervising Social Service Practitioner, and Angeles Albanez, Social Services Aide with the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico, from April 19 to April 22nd, 2001 at a total cost of \$1350. The purpose of this trip is to observe and consider placing the child in the home of the mother.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** DCS took custody of the child as a result of the arrest, and subsequent deportation, of the parents who were living in a drug house in San Bernardino County. The three-year-old child, who was born in the United States, is currently being cared for by relatives in Los Angeles who have indicated that they do not want to provide long-term care.

The mother has petitioned the Court for the return of the child. Without investigating the circumstances in Mexico, the Department of Children's Services would not have any facts to make a recommendation to the Court and/or to defend its case against the mother, if necessary. The parents, who reside in Mexico, have a history of drug consumption and it would be in the best interest of the child that the home be evaluated prior to permanent placement with his mother. Therefore, it has been determined that Ms. Devore should evaluate the home of the mother. Ms. Albanez is accompanying due to safety reasons.

Ms. Devore's recommendation derived from this trip will be presented at the next court hearing scheduled for May 1, 2001. In the event that the recommendation is not to place the child with the mother, the child will be placed in a concurrent planning home.

Pursuant to County Travel Policy, as amended November 23, 1992, Board approval is required for all out-of-country travel.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item has been reviewed and approved by Deputy County Counsel (Sandra D. Baxter) and by County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst).

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** The estimated cost of travel, car rental, meals, and lodging is approximately \$1350.00 depending on airfare discount availability. Funding is included in the Department of Children's Services' fiscal year 2000-2001 Budget.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All Districts

**PRESENTER:** Cathy Cimbalo

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors